

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 3755
GRADE: S-15

TITLE: HORTICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION:

Under general supervision, performs skilled horticultural work or disseminates horticultural information on the propagation, care and protection of plant materials from insects and disease; makes independent judgments relying on knowledge of sound horticultural practices; and does related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

Not applicable.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Researches cultural and germination requirements of plant materials and maintains up-to-date knowledge of plant ecology and soil science;
Produces through various propagation techniques, annual, perennial, and woody plant materials in staggered plantings to fit transplanting and blooming schedules and make maximum use of greenhouse space;
Coordinates greenhouse "population" based on anticipated maturation, scheduled events, and transplanting schedules;
Designs planting beds for parks and other County facilities;
Designs and executes planting plan for the formal garden at Sully Plantation and the Government Center, researching historical varieties of plants;
Performs necessary maintenance (spraying for insects and diseases, dead-heading, transplanting) for the Sully Plantation garden and the Government Center;
Performs routine maintenance and minor repair to equipment and greenhouse;
Complies with state and local laws regulating a licensed Pest Controller in the application of pesticides including keeping detailed records;
May identify horticultural or insect problems for County residents and advise on choice, proper dosage and techniques for the use of pesticides, fertilizers and chemical disease control;
Determines needed supplies and submits estimate of needs for purchase;
Keeps daily work records, germination rates, performance of plant varieties and brands of seed for use as a planning tool;
Orders seeds, "plugs" (flats of pre-germinated seeds) and other propagation materials from established contracts;
Selects, prepares, delivers, places and removes requested plant materials grown and maintained for use at special events;
Trains and supervises transplanting crews and personnel temporarily;
Assigned to the greenhouse
May insure that County libraries are provided with soil test kits and diagnostic forms submitted for analysis of fertility.

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REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Greenhouse or nursery operation;
Horticultural characteristics of plant materials;
Propagation techniques;
Soil characteristics and plant requirements;
Pest control techniques and regulations.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to:
High school graduation or a G.E.D. issued by a state department of education; PLUS
Three years of progressively responsible experience in greenhouse, nursery work, technical horticultural work and/or the propagation of plant materials;
An Associates Degree in Horticulture, Agriculture, Biology or related degree may be substituted for two years of the experience.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

Assignment to the Park Authority Greenhouse also requires:
Pest Controller's License;
Must hold a Commercial Driver's License in the state of residence or be able to obtain same at the time of license expiration;
May be required to provide copies of driving record periodically for verification of driving status.

ESTABLISHED: September 14, 1992